

Call for Nominations **2026 Leaders in Clinical Excellence Awards**

June 1, 2026

To the UT Southwestern Community:

[Nominations are now open](#) for the 2026 Leaders in Clinical Excellence Awards, which honor clinical faculty whose work strengthens patient care, advances the education and training of the next generation of healthcare professionals, and reflects the very best of UT Southwestern.

We invite you to help identify those physicians whose contributions merit special recognition. The seven award categories detailed below include the Patricia and William L. Watson Jr., M.D. Award for Excellence in Clinical Medicine – our institution’s highest honor in clinical care.

[Nominations will be accepted online](#) through **Monday, July 13**, and will be reviewed by a faculty awards committee.

The 2026 awards ceremony will be held in person **Nov. 4** in the Tom and Lula Gooch Auditorium, with an option to join virtually.

Honoring our colleagues reinforces the values that shape UT Southwestern’s culture and sustains our shared commitment to excellence in patient care, education, and service. Thank you for helping us celebrate extraordinary work represented in these distinct awards.

- **Patricia and William L. Watson Jr., M.D. Award for Excellence in Clinical Medicine**
Established in 2009 through a gift from Dr. William L. Watson Jr. – a UT Southwestern alumnus – and his wife, Patricia, the Watson Award recognizes a UT Southwestern faculty physician who exemplifies excellence in patient care, is a leader in advancing clinical innovations, and has had a profound impact on students, trainees, colleagues, and patients.
- **Rising Star Award**
This award recognizes exceptional early-career clinical faculty whose actions and activities consistently exemplify enthusiasm, commitment, professionalism, and leadership.

- **Institutional Service Award**
This award honors clinical faculty who consistently share time and expertise in service to internal committees, task forces, and other institutional activities that make a significant impact on the care delivered to UT Southwestern patients.
- **Mentoring Award**
This award celebrates clinicians who demonstrate exceptional commitment and effectiveness as mentors to healthcare providers.
- **Patient and Family Recognition Award**
This award honors clinical faculty whose dedication to the compassionate, respectful delivery of exceptional patient care has garnered the highest degree of patient trust and satisfaction.
- **Program Development Award**
This award celebrates the innovation and collaboration that are foundational to the success of UT Southwestern Medical Center. It recognizes a group of clinical faculty and staff who have partnered to create, develop, and sustain an innovative program that significantly advances our ability to improve patient care.
- **The President's Award for Humanism in Clinical Care**
This award honors clinical faculty who exemplify the humanistic spirit of patient-centered medicine, both through clinical excellence and in outstanding compassion in the delivery of care.

More information about the awards, eligibility requirements, and nomination process can be found on the [Clinical Faculty Awards website](#).

Daniel K. Podolsky, M.D.

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